



The Resilience Authority of Charles County

Nov 17, 2020

Climate Change Impacts Differ Throughout the Country

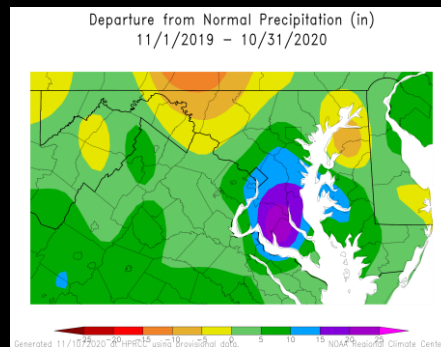
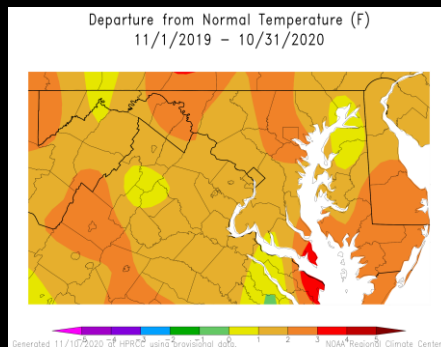
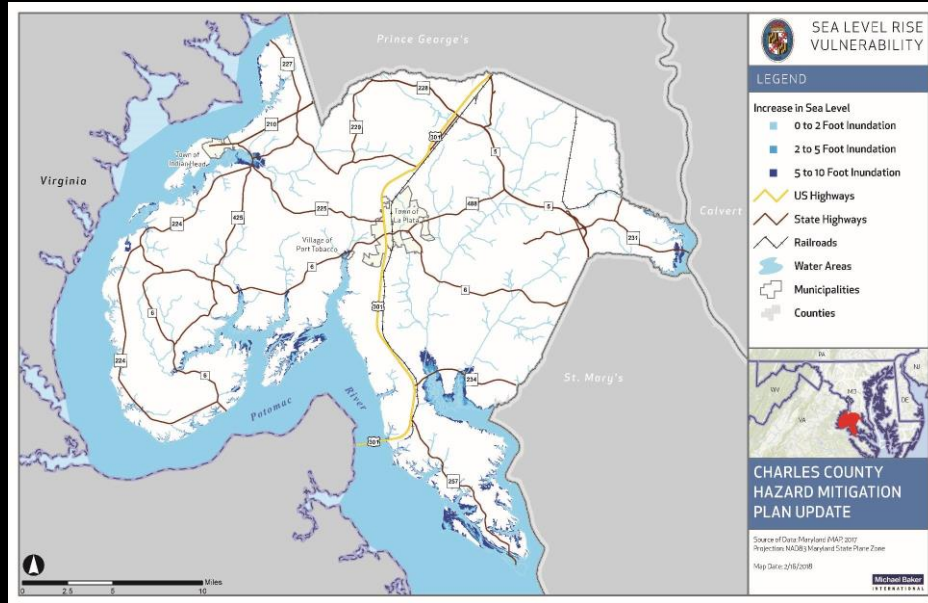


In Charles County, the major impacts of climate change are:

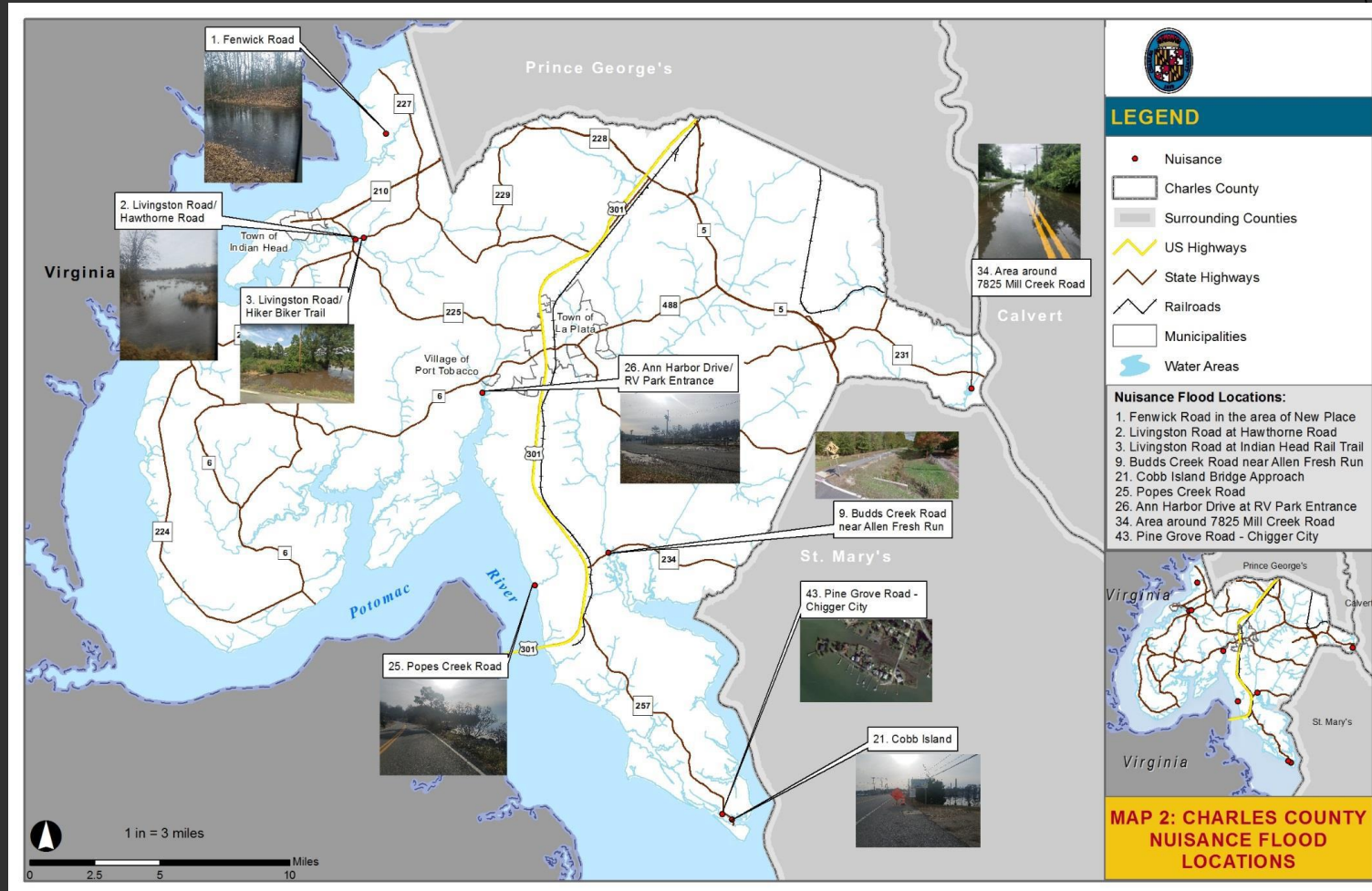
- *Sea level rise

- *More frequent and intense storm events

- *Higher temperatures



Which manifests into significant, current, and increasingly more severe, flooding problems.





Building our capacity to deal with the impacts of climate change

- ▶ Coastline Design, P.C. shoreline study
- ▶ Nuisance and Urban Flood Plan - HMP
- ▶ 20 + attendees - Climate Leadership Academy credentialing class (CCP)
- ▶ 83 CCG positions identified for mandatory climate competency
- ▶ Pod Cast Series
- ▶ DoD OEA grant partnership for NSF Indian Head
- ▶ Maryland Commission on Climate Change
- ▶ UM School of Public Policy Partnership
 - ▶ Resiliency Team/Plan
 - ▶ Resilience Authority of Charles County



In 2020, Charles County once again received a AAA bond rating from each of the three major rating agencies.

Standard and Poor's summary report included this statement as part of their rationale.

**STANDARD
& POOR'S**

The McGraw-Hill Companies

“We view the county's proactive and multipronged approach to climate change... as indicative of the management team's overall long-term planning strategy. The county has identified ways to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and improve the county's sustainability efforts, including...working with the University of Maryland to create a resiliency plan to model the effects of sea-level rise on the location of county assets. A partnership with the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment is expected to yield grant funding for a Naval Support Facility Indian Head mitigation project starting January 2021. The county is also partnering with the Maryland Climate Leadership Academy to credential local government officials of which more than 20 county staff are currently enrolled.”

Maryland Senate Bill 457



*“WHEREAS, The impacts from climate change are happening now in communities across the State of Maryland; and
WHEREAS, These impacts include rising temperatures, major rain and storm events, sea level rise, and changes in precipitation patterns; and*

WHEREAS, Those things that Maryland communities depend upon and value - natural resources and ecosystems, energy, transportation, agriculture, cultural and historic resources, human health, and economic growth - are experiencing, and will continue to experience, the effects of climate changes; and

WHEREAS, Communities in coastal states account for nearly half of the nation’s population and economic activity, and that cumulative damage to property in those areas could reach \$3.5 trillion by 2060; and

WHEREAS, Local governments will bear much of the responsibility and cost required to mitigate the impacts of climate change through infrastructure investment; and

WHEREAS, Resilience financing authorities can work in partnership with local governments to accelerate infrastructure financing, reduce the cost of implementation, and mitigate and manage the risks of climate change;”



What Does It Look Like?

A tool in our toolbox
for county project
management

- ▶ A separate nonprofit entity, yet an instrumentality of the incorporating local government
- ▶ An independent Board of Directors appointed by the Board of County Commissioners
- ▶ Authority staff will be existing county employees, at least at first
- ▶ The Authority ED will be the Construction Project Management (CPM) department head
- ▶ Bylaws will govern Authority operations
- ▶ May have its own procurement regulations
- ▶ Cannot levy taxes, but may charge and collect fees for its services
- ▶ May exercise all powers necessary to undertake, finance, manage, acquire, own, convey, or support resilience infrastructure projects
- ▶ May periodically issue and sell bonds



Benefits

What Are the Advantages of a Resilience Authority?

- ▶ Outside the county government procurement process for efficiency and speed of project completion
- ▶ Any debt service incurred by the Authority as a separate entity does not accrue to the county's debt ceiling policy and thereby limit the number of projects underway at any given time
- ▶ As a non-profit, the RA will be eligible to apply for certain grant funding for which county governments either aren't eligible or are not considered competitive.
- ▶ Can make decisions outside of the political process
 - ▶ Addressing the top priority projects
 - ▶ Address non-county government projects
- ▶ Embrace innovative solutions
 - ▶ Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund Guarantees
 - ▶ Pay for Performance model contracts
 - ▶ Combine funding from multiple sources
- ▶ Scalable so to take on larger projects as the county grows
- ▶ The nexus of climate competency to identify multiple sources of revenue and opportunities





For Example:



- ▶ Accept county general funds for highest priority projects published in the Nuisance and Urban Flood Plan
- ▶ Accept multiple funding sources for joint projects (potentially the case for NSF Indian Head)
- ▶ Take on projects for our municipalities, or other county governments
- ▶ Take on community projects emphasizing a benefiter-pay model instead of a public-pay model (Special Taxing District Example)
- ▶ Partner with MDE's WQRLF for loan guarantees on eligible projects
- ▶ Receive county Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund dollars as ongoing revenue source



Timeline



- ▶ **Nov 17th 2020** Presentation to Board and Bill Introduction
- ▶ **Dec 8th 2020** Public Hearing
- ▶ **Dec 15th 2020** Work Session and Potential Adoption
- ▶ **May 2021** CPM Department Head/Authority ED Hired
 - ▶ Commissioners appoint Authority Board members prior to this time



Questions?

Not a Funding Source, but rather a new tool in our toolbox providing significant advantage over traditional county government methods and practices.



Charles County Government
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About Charles County Government

The mission of Charles County Government is to provide our citizens the highest quality service possible in a timely, efficient and courteous manner. To achieve this goal, our government must be operated in an open and accessible atmosphere, be based on comprehensive long- and short-term planning and have an appropriate managerial organization tempered by fiscal responsibility. We support and encourage efforts to grow a diverse workplace. Charles County is a place where all people thrive and businesses grow and prosper; where the preservation of our heritage and environment is paramount; where government services to its citizens are provided at the highest level of excellence; and where the quality of life is the best in the nation.

It is the policy of Charles County to provide equal employment opportunity to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religious or political affiliation or opinion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity or expression, or any other status protected by law.